

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 12, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization's BUILD Grant Application

Dear Secretary Chao:

We are writing to ask for your full and fair consideration for the North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization's application for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant funding in order to widen and expand Interstate 25 in Northern Colorado.

Widening North I-25 is imperative to maintain the economic vitality of the region, accommodate the movement of freight associated with the energy and agriculture sectors, and improve the everyday travel of workers, residents, and visitors. This grant application requests funding assistance to widen North I-25 between SH402 and SH56/Little Thompson Bridge, also known as Segment 6, as shown in the grant narrative. The funding will go towards an express lane (Toll/HOV), adding one lane in each direction to help alleviate congestion.

Recognizing the Colorado state demographer's estimate that the region's population will double by 2040, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) hosted the first meeting on the future of North I-25 in July 2013 to address the corridor's congestion issues. CDOT, the North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization (NFRMPO), the North I-25 Coalition of Elected Officials, the Fix North I-25 Business Alliance, the North I-25 Funding Subcommittee (a combination of elected and business officials) and the North Area Transportation Alliance (NATA) have been working together for the past several years to address congestion and to identify funding mechanisms for the improvements identified in the *North I-25 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)*, including improvements to North I-25 from SH14 in Fort Collins to SH7 in Broomfield.

The congestion in the North I-25 corridor has resulted in increased crashes and emissions, and has significantly slowed the movement of people and goods within and through the region. To sustain the economic activity of this fast-growing region, transportation improvements are vital.

Northern Colorado is seeking federal assistance to implement improvements in this corridor. We ask that the North Front Range Metropolitan Organization's BUILD grant application be given full and fair consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact our offices if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Jared Polis
Member of Congress



Michael Bennet
U.S. Senator



Ken Buck
Member of Congress



Cory Gardner
U.S. Senator